



This Update Will Tell You About

- The completed Feasibility Study
- U.S. EPA's National Remedy Review Board
- The upcoming schedule for the site
- How you can get more information



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois, Indiana,
Michigan, Minnesota,
Ohio, Wisconsin

Feasibility Study Completed for Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund Site

Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

January 1999

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has completed its review of the Feasibility Study (FS) for the Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund site in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. U.S. EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will now develop a proposed plan for cleaning up contamination in the Sheboygan River and Harbor. More information is provided in this fact sheet.

Feasibility Study

The FS describes and evaluates alternatives for addressing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and metal contamination in Sheboygan River and Harbor sediment. The alternatives developed in the FS are based on the results of the Remedial Investigation, which describes the nature and extent of contamination in the Sheboygan River and Harbor. The FS evaluates the alternatives against criteria such as cost, effectiveness, and ease of implementation. In addition, the FS develops several site-specific cleanup goals for contaminants of concern. Finally, the FS assesses human health and ecological risk associated with each alternative.

The first draft of the FS was completed by Tecumseh Products Company in September 1997. Tecumseh Products incorporated U.S. EPA and WDNR comments on the first draft and resubmitted the current version of the FS in April 1998. U.S. EPA will use the information in the FS, along with information developed by U.S. EPA, to develop a plan for cleaning up the contamination in the river and harbor. Cleaning up the Sheboygan River, like other contaminated rivers, pre-

sents special challenges because the flowing water moves contaminated sediment.

National Remedy Review Board

In 1995, U.S. EPA implemented the National Remedy Review Board to promote cost-effective Superfund cleanup decisions. The Board reviews the proposed cleanup plans for high-cost and high-visibility Superfund sites to ensure the cleanup plans are consistent with current laws, regulations, and guidance.

The Board is scheduled to review the "remedy package" for the Sheboygan River and Harbor and meet with U.S. EPA project staff in March. The remedy package consists of a summary of investigation results and site risks, a description of the alternatives developed in the FS, and a summary of state and community input. During the review, Board members ask questions of U.S. EPA project staff about various components of the package. The Board typically is interested in issues such as:

- Will the cleanup strategy be effective?
- What are the positions of the state, local communities, and the parties responsible for the cleanup?
- Are the cleanup goals appropriate and attainable?
- Are the cost estimates reasonable?
- Is this cleanup plan consistent with other U.S. EPA cleanup plans?
- Have other similar cleanup plans been evaluated?

U.S. EPA staff familiar with the Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund site are involved in the review to ensure that the Board fully understands the circum-

stances that led to the proposed site remedy. The companies determined responsible for the contamination and the Lake Michigan Federation, which has its own consultant via a U.S. EPA Technical Assistance Grant, may also review the remedy package and respond to the Board prior to the meeting. Although the Board's

review meeting is not open to the public, the Board's input lays the groundwork for the actual proposed plan to be finalized this Spring. The proposed plan will be made available to the public.

Because the nature and extent of contamination varies in different parts of the river,

the proposed cleanup plan will have five components. There will be a cleanup plan for the: 1) Upper River Sediment; 2) Middle River Sediment; 3) Lower River and Harbor Sediment; 4) Floodplain Soil adjacent to the river; and 5) Ground water.

Upcoming Schedule

Remedy Review Board Meeting
Winter 1999

Proposed Cleanup Plan
Spring 1999

Public Comment Period
Spring 1999

Public Meeting on Proposed Plan
Spring 1999

Record of Decision
Summer 1999

For Additional Information

Anyone interested in reviewing the FS or learning more about the Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund site is encouraged to review site-related documents available at the information repositories:

Mead Public Library
710 North 8th Street
Sheboygan, WI

Sheboygan City Hall
828 Center Avenue, 2nd Floor
Sheboygan, WI

In addition, the following U.S. EPA representatives may be contacted for more information about the Sheboygan River and Harbor site:

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